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Nyssa sylvatica

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Wes Whiteside—Species Information Sheet

I. Nomenclature

Family: Nyssaceae

Genus Species(Authority): *Nyssa sylvatica* Marsh.

Subspecies/Variety(Authority):

Cultivar:

Common Name: Blackgum

II. Origin (country and/or habitat)

Native/Rare **Native/Uncommon** Old World/Rare Old
World/Uncommon

Nyssa sylvatica has a native range from Texas, north into Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, and east throughout the rest of the United States, including Ontario in Canada (USDA 2011).

III. Habit

Tree	Shrub	Vine
Herbaceous Annual Perennial	Herbaceous Biennial	Herbaceous

Flowering Season: Late April- early May

Flower Color: Greenish yellow

Fruit Type: Drupe

IV. Source of Plant Material

From where or whom obtained and when: The largest of the four *Nyssa sylvatica* trees in the driveway island at Whiteside Garden came from Forest Keeling Nursery in Missouri, originally offered to Dr. Whiteside in a five gallon tin can in the summer of 1967. Another one came from what was Wandell's Nursery in Urbana, Illinois, as a small plastic potted plant in the early 1970's. The other two in the driveway island were collected in the wild, locally from Coles and Clark Counties of Illinois around 1972. A seedling came up around 1990 at the base of a Serbian spruce and has developed into a full tree where the spruce has since been lost.

Propagule Material:

	Seed	Vegetative	Whole Plant
Details:			

Availability: Limited availability, but more available than they have been in the past

V. Cultural

Special Soil Type: Average soil

Soil Moisture: Wet Mesic Dry Other

VI. Additional Comments

While susceptible to transplant shock, *Nyssa sylvatica* has been an easy plant to grow at the Whiteside Garden and seems to be underrepresented in cultivation.

VII. Literature Cited

USDA, NRCS. 2011. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>, 20 October 2011).
National Plant Data Team, Greensboro, NC 27401-4901 USA.





